U. S. FOREST SERVICE

RESEARCH NOTE NC-68

NORTH CENTRAL FOREST EXPERIMENT STATION, FOREST SERVICE—U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Folwell Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

INDIANA SAWMILLS RECEIVE 232 MILLION BOARD FEET OF SAW LOGS IN 1966

ABSTRACT. — Indiana's 480 active sawmills received 232 million board feet of saw logs in 1966. More than one-quarter was red oak. Eighty-six of these mills each sawed more than 1 million board feet. Of 1,100 mills active in 1949, only 30 sawed this much. Sixteen counties each produced more than 5 million board feet and collectively accounted for 47 percent of the lumber sawn in 1966.

From a peak of more than 1 billion board feet at the turn of the century, Indiana lumber production declined to a low of 70 million in 1932, and then slowly increased to 178 million in 1966 (fig. 1). Most of the lumber manufactured in 1966 was hardwood. Almost half (47 percent) of the total 1966 lumber production was concentrated in 16 counties, each of which produced more than 5 million board feet of lumber (fig. 2).

Indiana sawmills received 232 million board feet (International ¼-inch Log Rule) of saw logs in 1966. Only 16 million board feet came from out-of-state including nearly 6 million from Michigan, 4 million from Illinois, and 3 million from Ohio.

More than a quarter of the 1966 saw log volume acquired was red oak (includes black oak) (table 1). Other major species procured were white oak, hard maple, yellow-poplar, soft maple, and walnut. Northern Indiana (fig. 3) accounted for 46 percent of the lumber output. Three-fifths or more of the hard maple, walnut, basswood, and ash lumber was sawn in this Unit. Of the Northern Unit's 140 active sawmills, 41 cut over 1 million board feet per year.

The 230 active mills in Indiana's Knobs Unit received 74 million board feet of saw logs in 1966. Although this region contains almost half of the State's active sawmills, four-fifths of them are small, cutting less than 500 thousand board feet annually. Principal species cut were red oak, white oak, yellow-poplar, hard maple, and beech. Sixty percent of all blackgum and sweetgum lumber was manufactured in this Unit.

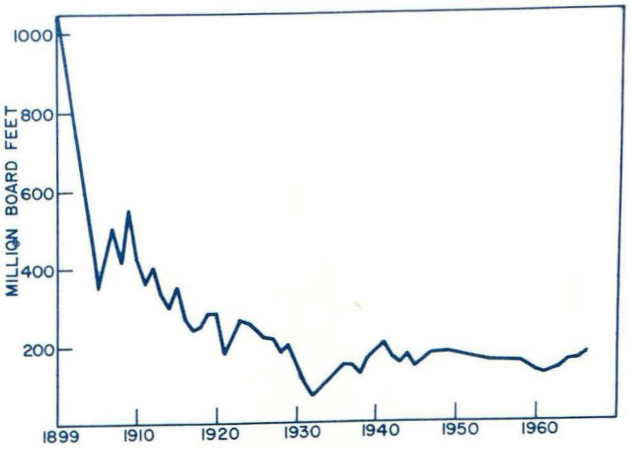

Figure 1. — Lumber production in Indiana, 1899 to 1966 (Sources: Lumber production in the United States 1799-1946, U.S. Dep. Agr. Misc. Public. 669, 1948; Lumber production and mill stocks, Annu. Rep. U.S. Dep. Com. Bur. Census, Annu. Reports: 1947, 1949, 1954, 1958, 1960-66).

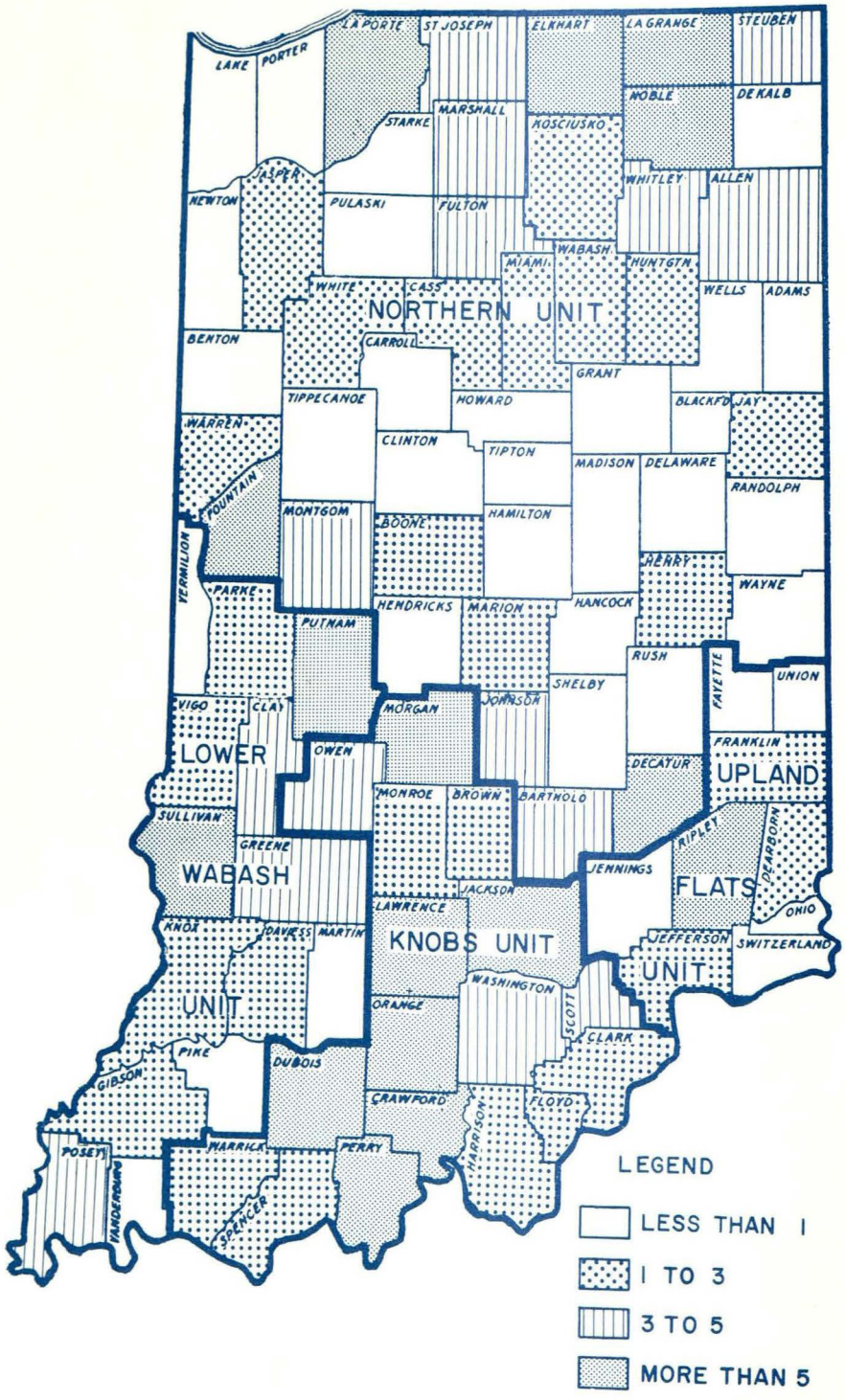

Figure 2. — Lumber production, in million board feet, in Indiana counties, 1966.

Table 1. — *Indiana saw log receipts by species and Survey Units, 1966 (Million board feet, International ¼-inch Log Rule)*

	State total	Lower Wabash Unit	Knobs Unit	Upland Flats Unit	Northern Unit
SOFTWOODS					
Cypress	.1	.1	-	-	-
White and red pine	*	-	*	*	*
Virginia pine	.2	-	.2	*	-
Other softwoods	.1	-	*	.1	-
All softwoods	.4	.1	.2	.1	*
HARDWOODS					
Ash	11.2	1.7	1.7	.6	7.2
Basswood	4.2	.2	.3	.1	3.6
Beech	10.1	.9	4.0	1.1	4.1
Cherry, black	2.3	.3	.6	.1	1.3
Cottonwood	12.1	3.6	2.4	.5	5.6
Elm	3.0	.5	.7	.1	1.7
Gum, black	1.3	.3	.8	.1	.1
Gum, sweet	3.0	.5	1.8	.5	.2
Hickory	7.2	1.6	2.6	.5	2.5
Maple, hard	22.9	1.5	5.4	.3	15.7
Maple, soft	15.7	3.1	3.4	.4	8.8
Oak, red	65.9	9.3	28.3	4.1	24.2
Oak, white	25.1	1.9	8.5	1.6	13.1
Sycamore	11.2	2.2	3.3	.8	4.9
Yellow-poplar	17.1	4.6	7.3	.8	4.4
Walnut	14.9	1.0	2.1	2.5	9.3
Other hardwoods	4.4	2.6	.5	.1	1.2
All hardwoods	231.6	35.8	73.7	14.2	107.9
All species	232.0	35.9	73.9	14.3	107.9

* Less than 50,000 board feet.

Sixty-one sawmills in the Lower Wabash and 49 in the Upland Flats Unit together procured 50 million board feet of saw logs in 1966. In addition to oak, the major species cut were yellow-poplar, cottonwood, and soft maple in the Lower Wabash Unit, and walnut and beech in the Upland Flats Unit.

Although 1,100 sawmills were operating in Indiana in 1949, the number of active mills dwindled to 480 by 1966. However, 86 of the mills active in 1966 each sawed more than 1 million board feet, while only 30 mills produced this amount in 1949.

The saw log receipt statistics in this report resulted from a canvass of Indiana sawmills conducted by the Forestry Division of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, the Indiana Extension Foresters, and the North Central Forest Experiment Station. All known active sawmills in Indiana were included in the canvass, so the statistics are not subject to sampling error.

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1968

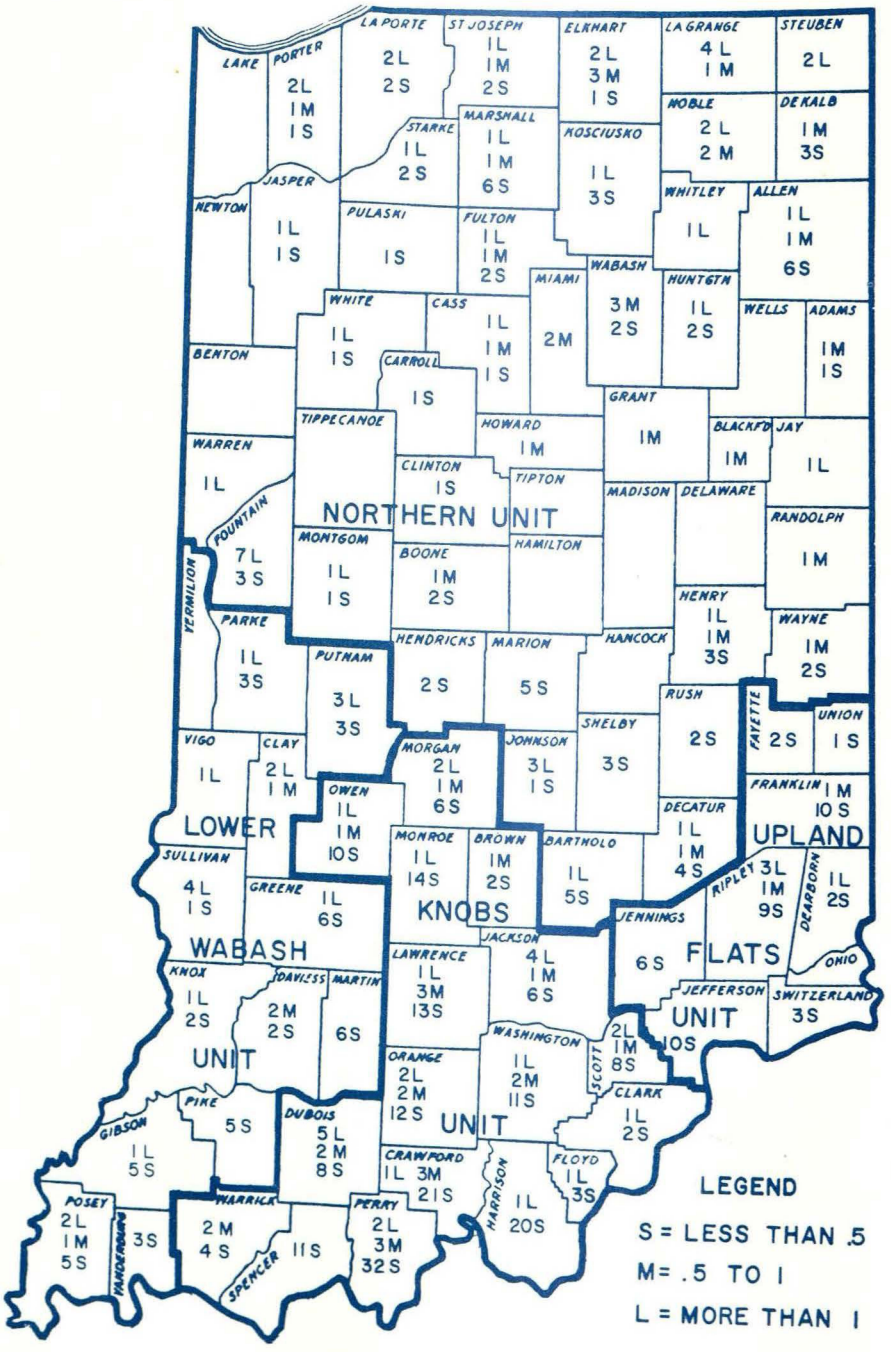

Figure 3. — Number of active sawmills in Indiana counties by production size-class (million board feet of lumber produced), 1966.